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## What Shall We Celebrate This Christmas?

Joel Engle, December 15, 2019

*Small Group Discussion Questions*

### Getting Started

Take some time to catch up and connect as a group. Pray before discussion. Expect God to move through your time together!

### Pacing Your Group

Move quickly through “observation” leaving enough time for “reflection”, “discussion”, and “surrender.”

### Scripture Reading

Re-read the scripture passages as needed when you discuss the questions.

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#### Observation: *What does this scripture passage say?*

**Read: Micah 5:2, Isaiah 7:14, Psalm 72:9-10, Isaiah 11:1**

1. What does each Old Testament scripture tell us about the coming of Jesus?

**Isaiah 61:1-11**

2. What does this prophecy tell us about the coming of Jesus?

#### Reflection and Discussion: *What are some first thoughts flowing from the scriptures?*

***Talk together about how the scriptures connect to everyday life.***

3. The Old Testament scriptures point to a very specific rescue plan, initiated and sustained by God Himself, to restore relationship between God and man. The coming of Jesus is a significant part of this rescue plan. What attributes of God or aspects of our relationship with God are magnified in the coming of Jesus to earth?

4. For ages the Jews had waited for the coming of Messiah. In the coming of Christ so many covenant promises of God were fulfilled. Here on earth we live in a time and a place that could be described as, “the already and the not yet.” As followers of Jesus we experience so much of the restoring work of God through faith and sanctification (the “already”). Yet, we long for more as we wait on God to complete the work He has begun (the “not yet”). We have the promise of heaven and Christ’s return when we will experience even deeper and more complete aspects of our relationship and wholeness.

- What gift from God do you long for this Christmas? If God were to show up right now and give you a gift, something you are longing for and waiting for, what would it be?

5. What is your plan to celebrate the birth of Christ this year?

#### Surrender: **Responding to God’s voice.**

6. What is one thing God is saying to you through this study and discussion?

**\*\* Take some time to pray for one another in response to what has been discussed today \*\***

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#### We’re here!

We would love to hear about how things are going in your small group!

Reach out any time with questions, ideas, thoughts, or concerns.

Contact Care & Community Pastor, Michael Warren, (907) 646-4830, michaelw@changepointalaska.com